

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicants elect Species I as shown in FIGS. 2-4 with claims 1-6 and 11 readable thereon, for further prosecution and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

It is believed that any search for the species embodied in FIGS. 2-4 would necessarily include a search for the species embodied in the remaining drawings. Thus, a simultaneous search for all the species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all the species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public, due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of the subject matter claimed

in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected species.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt VAN WERSCH ET AL

Frederick J. Dorchak Reg. No. 29,298
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicants

FJD:cmm

Enclosure: Copy of Petition for four-month Extension of Time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 26, 2008.

Amy Klein
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